

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10
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NEA-10 ARA-14 /160 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9519
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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USMISSION BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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SUBJECT: SOVIET OIL AND GAS TRADE IN 1976

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SUMMARY: DATA FROM THE 1976 SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE
YEARBOOK SHOW THAT SOVIET OIL EXPORTS TO WESTERN COUNTRIES
GREW MORE RAPIDLY THAN THOSE TO COMMUNIST NATIONS. THE
SHARE OF SOVIET NATURAL GAS EXPORTS GOING TO WEST EUROPE
ALSO ROSE SUBSTANTIALLY, AMOUNTING TO ALMOST HALF OF THE
USSR'S GAS EXPORTS. HOWEVER, COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ALSO
INCREASED THEIR IMPORTS FROM USSR AND STILL RECEIVED MORE

THAN HALF OF BOTH SOVIET OIL AND GAS DELIVERIES. SOVIET IMPORTS OF OIL INCREASED WHILE GAS IMPORTS DECLINED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE NEWLY RELEASED TRADE STATISTICS SHOW THAT TOTAL EXPORTS OF SOVIET CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCTS REACHED 148.5 MILLION METRIC TONS IN 1976, INCREASING 18 MILLION TONS OVER 1975. COMMUNIST COUNTRIES RECEIVED 84 MILLION TONS ON 1976, 57 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. IN 1975 THEY IMPORTED 77.7 MILLION TONS (60 PERCENT). INDUSTRIAL WESTERN NATIONS IN 1976 IMPORTED 56.6 MILLION TONS OF SOVIET CRUDE AND PRODUCTS (38 PERCENT), UP FROM 45.2 MILLION TONS (35 PERCENT) IN 1975. SOVIET OIL EXPORTS TO INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES THUS INCREASED 25 PERCENT OVER 1975, ACCOUNTING FOR ALMOST 64 PERCENT OF THE GROWTH IN TOTAL SOVIET OIL EXPORTS. DELIVERIES TO COMMUNIST NATIONS GREW BY 8 PERCENT. EXPORTS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE STABLE, RISING FROM 2.8 MILLION TONS IN 1975 TO 2.9 MILLION IN 1976.

2. SOVIET OIL IMPORTS FROM IRAQ ALSO INCREASED, CLIMBING FROM 2.7 MILLION TONS IN 1975 TO 3.2 MILLION IN 1976. OIL PRODUCT IMPORTS FROM ROMANIA DROPPED FROM .5 MILLION TONS IN 1975 TO 2. MILLION IN 1976.

3. SOVIET NATURAL GAS EXPORTS IN 1976 ROSE TO 25.8 BILLION CUBIC METERS, 6.4 BILLION MORE THAN IN 1975. UNCLASSIFIED

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WEST EUROPEAN NATIONS IMPORTED 12.3 BILLION CU.M. (48 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL), EAST EUROPE IMPORTED 13.4 BILLION (52 PERCENT). IN 1975 THE WEST HAD RECEIVED 7.3 BILLION CU.M. (42 PERCENT) AND THE EAST 11.3 BILLION (58 PERCENT). SOVIET GAS IMPORTS ACTUALLY DECLINED. DELIVERIES FROM IRAN IN 1976 WERE 9.3 BILLION CU.M., DOWN FROM 9.6 BILLION IN 1975. THOSE FROM AFGHANISTAN FELL FROM 2.9 BILLION IN 1975 TO 2.5 BILLION IN 1976.

4. FOLLOWING ARE FIGURES IN MILLIONS OF METRIC TONS FOR 1976 SOVIET OIL EXPORTS TO CEMA COUNTRIES (1975 IN PARENTHESES): BULGARIA, 11.9 (11.6); CUBA, 8.8 (8.1); CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 17.2 (16.0); GDR, 16.8 (15.0); HUNGARY, 8.4 (7.5); MONGOLIA, .4 (.4); POLAND, 14.1 (13.3). THREE COUNTRIES ACCOUNTED FOR MOST OF THE INCREASE IN SOVIET OIL EXPORTS TO THE WEST: FRANCE, 5.7 (3.3); ITALY, 12.0 (6.9); UK, 4.1 (1.5).

5. COMMENT: THE DATA FAIL TO SUPPORT JUNE 11 NEW YORK TIMES REPORTS THAT SOVIETS IN 1976 EXPORTED MORE OIL TO WESTERN COUNTRIES THAN TO COMMUNIST STATES. NOR IS NYT CORRECT IN SAYING THAT SOVIET OIL DELIVERIES TO EAST

EUROPE AND CUBA DECLINED. AS PARA 4 SHOWS, OIL
EXPORTS INCREASED TO ALL CEMA COUNTRIES; IT WAS THE RATE OF
INCREASE TO THEM THAT DECLINED. THE DATA DO EMPHASIZE
GROWING RELATIVE PROMINENCE OF WEST AS IMPORTER OF SOVIET
OIL AND GAS, REVERSING A TREND TOWARDS A FASTER GROWTH
RATE FOR EXPORTS TO THE EAST.
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